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# The Herald

Inside...

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whipl Franklin  
in 3A playoffs

12A



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Since 1889

50 Cents

## Water line overrun to go before Council

**BY ANDIE L. BRYMER**  
Staff Writer

The Kings Mountain City Council must decide if it will extend a water line construction reimbursement agreement to Kings Row Apartments by \$30,000 to cover cost overrun.

Utility Committee members Rick Moore and Houston Corn disagreed during a Tuesday afternoon meeting.

Egan Construction, which is building the apartments, entered into an agreement last year with the city that gives the developer 85 percent of revenues off the water line until 100 percent of installation cost is reached or 15 years passes, whichever comes first. That agreement was set with the line installation at \$249,000. The overruns bring the construction price to \$279,000.

Moore wanted to keep reimbursement at \$249,000. Corn wanted to extend that by \$30,000.

According to a memo from Planning and Economic Development Director Steve Killian, the pros and cons are: "The probable pay back period to the developer from utility revenues received will likely increase from 12 to 15 years. There are no disincentives to the developer to keep him from running over budget if the reimbursement agreement is amended to cover these additional costs. The City is not out any money either way because the developer has upfronted all the construction cost monies."

## Memorial Day program slated

Claude Pearson, former American Legion Post 155 Commander, and Kings Mountain Mayor Rick Murphrey will speak during the city's annual Memorial Day service.

The Monday morning service begins at 10 a.m. at the Veteran's Memorial at Mountain Rest Cemetery.

The Kings Mountain Police Department Explorer Unit will present the colors. Police Chief Melvin Proctor will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. City Councilman Rev. Howard Shipp will give the invocation.

The service will conclude with a wreath-laying ceremony at the monument. Paul Fulton will play "Taps." The public is invited.

## Military events at National Park

Kings Mountain National Military Park will hold a unique special event Memorial Day weekend when it hosts "Military Through the Ages" with re-enactors depicting every major conflict in the nation's history.

The Battle of Kings Mountain involved civilian soldiers - the militia - and this weekend the public can learn about the history of the American soldier, his weapons and equipment. There will be displays of uniforms, weapons, military vehicles and more.

Re-enactors will present talks on the French & See Park, 9A

# Budget vote Tuesday

\$27.9 million price tag to be considered following public hearing

**BY ANDIE L. BRYMER**  
Staff Writer

Kings Mountain City Council will vote on a proposed \$27.9 million budget Tuesday night. The public may make comments during a public hearing preceding the vote.

No new taxes are part of the budget but there are water, sewer, gas and garbage rate increases.

A proposed three percent cost-of-living increase will replace what is commonly known as the "birthday bonus." The bonus was created five years ago to address pay issues. Employees received a two percent bonus on their birthdays.

The cost-of-living increase will be more costly for the city, according to City Manager Greg McGinnis. Not only will more money be paid out, the raise, unlike the bonus, will increase workers' base pay meaning the city

makes a larger state retirement and 401 K contribution, he said.

The utility increases include a five percent increase in water and sewer rates for residential customers inside the city limits. That breaks down to \$1.82 more a month or .6 cent a day for the average customer, according to McGinnis.

The proposed hike would mean a 10 percent increase for residential customers living outside the city. Inside-city-businesses would pay four percent more and those outside the city, eight percent more. This would generate an estimated revenue increase of \$181,883.

Water and sewer cut-on fees are proposed to go from \$10 to \$15 for all classifications which is estimated to bring in \$4,215 more a year. A proposed increase in tap fees will bring in an estimated \$29,540 more.

Mayor Rick Murphrey said the loss of textile plants in the early 2000s has

cost the city over \$1 million in revenue making the proposed rate increase inevitable. Anvil Knit made up 17 percent of the total water and sewer revenue and Dye Masters another eight percent, according to Murphrey.

A five percent increase in the base rate on gas is part of the budget. That translates to \$3.16 a month or .11 cents a day. This is estimated to garner \$90,000. Gas bills are figured using a two-step formula - a stable base rate and the current market value of gas which fluctuates. An increase in the gas connection fee also was proposed.

Trash pick up is proposed to go from \$5 a month to \$6. That would generate \$50,820 a year.

A crack down on businesses violating an ordinance requiring they use city garbage services could generate \$48,102. Many businesses are using a private garbage service, according to

See Budget, 9A

## BUDGET AT A GLANCE

Total budget - \$27.9 million.

Raises - three percent cost-of-living increase for employees.

Other increases:

-Five percent increase in water and sewer rates for residential customers inside the city limits.

-Water and sewer cut-on fees are proposed to go from \$10 to \$15 for all classifications.

-Five percent increase in the base rate on gas

-Trash pick increase from \$5 a month to \$6.

No increases in taxes.

## KMHS GRADUATION



JOSEPH BRYMER / HERALD

Kings Mountain High graduating seniors enter John Gamble Stadium for commencement exercises Saturday morning. Below, Audrey Stark hugs fellow classmate Megan Dixon.

# 251 receive diploma

**BY ANDIE L. BRYMER**  
Staff Writer

By late Saturday morning Kings Mountain High School's seniors had marched into Gamble Stadium, walked across the stage receiving diplomas and were declared graduates by Principal John Yarbro.

Friends, parents and other relatives clapped, hooted, called out names, sounded horns and threw confetti into the air as their graduates' names were called.

Some 251 strong, the Class of 2005 listened as co-valedictorians Robert Thomas Reid and Bradley Steven Moffitt made remarks.

From this point, success will no longer be measured in test scores and class rank but in terms of personal satisfaction and happiness, Moffitt told his classmates.

Community involvement, relationships and taking pleasure in work, will be other measures, he said.

Moffitt ended his remarks wishing his classmates "good luck" in several languages.

Reid marveled at the transformation of the Class of 2005 from apprehensive freshmen four years ago to the people sitting in caps and gowns today. He urged the class to remain humble and grateful

See Graduation, 7A



# SMOKE FREE

Guide helps you choose restaurants that don't allow smoking

**BY ANDIE L. BRYMER**  
Staff Writer

Don't like to eat where folks are smoking? The Cleveland County Health Department has made selecting restaurants easier with its new Smoke-Free Restaurant Dining Guide.

The pocket-size guide is available at the health department, participating restaurants and Kings Mountain and Shelby Chamber of Commerce offices.

"The majority of people want non-smoking," said Denese Stallings, health department director.

Last week Stallings spoke to a General

Assembly committee on pending legislation which would outlaw smoking at all restaurants statewide.

"It's the right thing to protect people from second-hand smoke," she said.

Smoking and second-hand smoke are a factor in asthma, cancer, lung and cardiovascular diseases, sinus problems and diabetes. Treating complications of smoking also adds to the Medicare and Medicaid tax burden.

While some in the restaurant industry argue that banning smoking will hurt profits, Cup and Saucer Tea Room owner Alice Armstrong disagrees. The popular and successful restaurant has been smoke free since

See Smoke, 9A



This decal on the door will tell you if the restaurant you're entering is smoke free.